

1974

Board of Trustees Student Affairs Committee July 23, 1974

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UNIVERSITY OF MAINE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

July 23, 1974
Bangor, Maine

STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

PRESENT: Chairman Stanley J. Evans, Robert L. Jalbert, Walter S. Schoenberger, Susan R. Kominsky (part of the time), Pamela Kelly; Staff: Donald R. McNeil (part of the time), Stanley L. Freeman (part of the time), George Shur (part of the time) and Howard R. Neville.

The 1971 Yankee Conference Regulations concerning Financial Aid to Student Athletes were reviewed.

Chairman Evans discussed the proposal from the Orono Campus that the Board relax its 1971 rule requiring demonstrated financial need for athletic scholarships.

President Neville addressed the committee and proposed that 10 grants-in-aid be given at the University of Maine at Orono for the next 10 years. These grants would be primarily for the five Yankee Conference sports: football, baseball, basketball, track and hockey. Dr. McNeil and Chairman Evans requested that guidelines be formulated on management of these awards.

President Neville stressed the fact that the University of Maine has never had a non-need award, in athletics, but that it does have numerous non-need awards granted on merit in other fields.

Funds were to come from alumni and friends of the University, President Neville said. He also stated that the University currently had very adequate scholarship funds and that current federal and state endowments plus loan funds and job guarantees would equal one loan for each entering freshman at UMO this fall up to his or her demonstrated need.

Benefits to accrue from the revised regulation were cited by President Neville as follows:

- ability to compete for athletes
- affirmative gain in sports record
- better campus atmosphere
- help in alumni giving program
- help in legislature as a public relations feature
- help collect \$3½ million for the current UMO Capital Fund Drive

Cost of Recruitment. Gate receipts and private contributions will pay cost. No additional funds are to be allocated by the University for athletics.

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Chairman Evans stressed that this would be a pilot project and that the program should be critically considered.

The meeting was opened for discussion. Mrs. Kominsky objected to the proposal on ethical grounds and because of the possibility of an ultimate effect of taking money away from education.

Questions were raised regarding (1) failure of the project, (2) athlete injury, (3) athlete refusal to play, (3) athlete academic success. Dr. Neville indicated that if the project failed the University would only be committed to those who had previously received the scholarship. In cases of injury or refusal to play, he stated that the athletes would still receive the scholarship. Dr. Neville said that at Nebraska athletes did better than most students and graduated on time.

Agreement was reached on a five-year period for the pilot project, after which the system was to be evaluated for renewal or cancellation.

Dr. Evans requested that Dr. Schoenberger serve as Chairman pro tem.

Mr. Jalbert moved and it was seconded to recommend adoption of the following:

That the University of Maine at Orono be allowed to grant, under Yankee Conference rules, the equivalent of ten (10) student-athlete scholarships per year which scholarships are not based on financial need and from private sources. This policy is to be evaluated by the Chancellor and the Board of Trustees at the end of five years.

That the Chancellor be directed to determine and report to the Board the desirability of establishing, and guidelines for, a non-need athletic scholarship program for other campuses participating in other athletic conferences and leagues.

Underlined words are additions.

The motion carried. Dr. Schoenberger was opposed and Ms. Kelly abstained.

Janet C. Beaulieu

for
Margaret R. Dexter
Clerk, Board of Trustees